

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 2003-023
DATE: March 18, 2003 Time 5:15 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding** – Due to significant rainfall, very rapid snowmelt, and frozen ground, water runoff has produced flooding conditions.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported in North Dakota.
3. **DAMAGES:** In Williams County, Trenton area residents reported water from melting snow flooded portions of County Roads 15 and 2. Very high water levels were reported along Highway 1804. A number of cabins and houses in low areas close to Black Tail Dam sustained water damage.

Up to two and one half inches of rain fell in McKenzie County. Approximately 15 homes in Watford City, located in McKenzie County, received varying degrees of water damage due to flooding along Cherry Creek. Eleven people were evacuated from seven homes. Due to an ice jam at a bridge, one farmstead, two miles north of Watford City, received water in several buildings and 80 sheep were forced to stand in water. If the jam were to break quickly, two homes downstream along Cherry Creek would encounter significant damage.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: The following agencies provided resources: Williams County Sheriffs Department, Williams County Emergency Management, Williams County Highway Department, Williston Police Department, Williston Public Works, McKenzie road and Bridge, McKenzie County Sheriffs Department, Billings County Sheaves Department, McKenzie County Emergency Management, McKenzie Rural Fire Department, McKenzie Rural Fire Auxiliary, McKenzie County Ambulance, Arnegard Rural Fire Department, Watford City Police Department, and Watford City Public Works.

STATE: The Division of Emergency Management coordinated the search for additional sandbags.

FEDERAL: No federal resources are required at this time.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** The McKenzie County Rural Fire Department Auxiliary and McKenzie County Ambulance members provided mass feeding and medical care.
6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** This morning, Williams County Deputy Sheriffs used boats to evacuate two families near Black Tail Dam. Williams County Highway Department, Williston Public Works, and Williston Police Department personnel are checking flooded areas, roads and streets. U.S. Corps of Engineer flood ponds are at capacity and are being pumped out at the rate of 75,000 gallons per minute.

State Highway 23 has been closed and Highway 1806 in the northern part of the county was impassable in two places due to high water levels. County Road 36, two miles north of Watford City, was barricaded due to high water. A total of 4,000 sandbags was provided by Williams and Billings Counties. Members of the McKenzie and Williams County Sheriff Departments, along with Williams County Emergency Management personnel, transported sandbags. McKenzie County Road and Bridge and the Watford City Public Works provided personnel and equipment to build dikes and move sandbags to strategic locations. Personnel from the McKenzie County and Arnegard Rural Fire Departments, the McKenzie County Ambulance Service, and McKenzie County Road and Bridge assisted with sandbagging efforts. The Watford City Police Department provided traffic control and helped to execute evacuations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No assistance has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director